

Festival, a celebration of the National Capital Area's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender, GLBT, communities, their families, and friends.

The Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party in 1975 to the current ten-day-long celebration. This year Capital Pride Festival culminates with what Washington's City Paper has declared D.C.'s Best Parade for two years running, the Pride Parade on June 13th and "The Main Event," a street fair on Pennsylvania Avenue in the shadow of the Capitol, June 14th.

This year, the Festival's new organizers, the Capital Pride Alliance, Inc., anticipates an attendance of 250,000, making Capital Pride one of the largest GLBT festivals in the United States.

2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots, which, in the early hours of June 28, 1969, New York City's GLBT community spontaneously and publicly asserted its rights in defiance of government oppression. The Capital Pride commemorates this event with the theme "Generations of Pride: Celebrate and Remember."

I have marched in the Pride parades since coming to Congress to emphasize the universality of human rights and the importance of enacting federal legislation to secure those rights for the GLBT community and the District of Columbia. Congress has much work to do. We must pass The Family Leave Insurance Act of 2009, Employment Non-Discrimination Act, The Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act/Matthew Shepard Act, Safe Schools Improvement Act, The Military Readiness Enhancement Act, The Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act, Tax Equity for Health Plan Beneficiaries Act, The Family and Medical Leave Inclusion Act, Uniting American Families Act, Responsible Education About Life Act, and the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

This year, as Iowa, Maine, and New Hampshire have extended full rights to their GLBT residents. Our city of 600,000 residents, 10 percent more residents than the entire State of Wyoming, who pay more taxes per capita than 49 of the 50 states, remains the only jurisdiction in the United States where all its citizens are denied their basic rights by being subjected to Taxation Without Representation.

The residents of our Nation's Capital are entitled all their rights as citizens. I support and, I will defend, D.C. Council's action to extend full faith and credit to all marriages contracted in the United States as necessary to stabilize and protect all D.C. Families.

I ask the House to join me in welcoming the celebrants attending the 34th Annual Capital Pride Festival in Washington, DC, and I take this opportunity to remind the celebrants that U.S. citizens who reside in Washington, DC are taxed without full voting representation in Congress.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, El Paso, Texas has a strong history of public service.

Everywhere in our community we are surrounded by people working for the common good and devoting their lives to helping others. Our city is very fortunate to count on local, county, state, and federal employees, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our children are taught, our sick are provided the medical care they need, and everyday citizens have access to vital services.

Our public servants are not recognized or thanked enough for the work they do. In honor of public service recognition week, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for our public servants in El Paso, Texas. Here are just a few examples of those who continue to make significant contributions to our community.

Mrs. Deborah Hamlyn is a homegrown El Pasoan and veteran City employee of over 30 years. After being recruited by the City of El Paso for an internship with the Planning Department, Ms. Hamlyn continued to advance within the organization. She maintained various planning positions and in 1987 ultimately became the first female Director of Community and Human Development where she remained for over 15 years. Ms. Hamlyn now serves as Deputy City Manager and has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life of her fellow El Pasoans.

Mr. Ray Resendez, III serves as the Regional Liaison Manager for the Governor's State Division of Emergency Management. After 20 years of serving the El Paso community as a firefighter, Mr. Resendez spends his energy making sure that our community is prepared for any unforeseen disaster or emergency. In these times of a heightened state of alert, Mr. Resendez serves the people of El Paso well, with great dedication and passion.

Another great example is Mr. Rodney Thompson at the Veterans Affairs Office in El Paso. He has worked diligently over the years to ensure that our nation cares for our veterans and affords them the dignity and respect that they deserve. He manages our veterans' cases and has been a great partner.

In addition to Mr. Thompson, our seniors and veterans in El Paso are fortunate to have people like Mrs. Rosanna Monge, a nurse practitioner at the El Paso Veterans Affairs Health Care Clinic. Mrs. Monge has been a reliable advocate for our veterans when it comes to their health needs and is passionately committed to taking care of these men and women who have given so much.

Mrs. Nellie Velez is another great example of an outstanding public servant. She is the District Manager at the Social Security Administration in El Paso and takes great care in advocating on behalf of our seniors.

Ms. Isabel Mullens, the Acting Assistant Director of Field Operations at Customs and Border Protection in El Paso, has also devoted much of her life to serving our community. She started her career with the federal government on November 12, 1973. Initially hired as a GS-02 clerk at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, she has risen to her current position through years of hard work and dedication. Thousands of people cross back and forth from El Paso, Texas to Ciudad Juarez, Mexico both on foot and by car as our communities share strong economic, social, and cultural ties. Mrs. Mullens serves our community with compassion and vigilance ensuring that our ports facilitate trade and commerce and are safe and secure.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent the people of the 16th Congressional District. Our community is vibrant and strong because of the individuals I have highlighted and the thousands of other public servants in El Paso who take pride in their work and their service to our nation. I salute all our public servants and honor them for their efforts.

TROY CAOILE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Troy Caoile who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Troy Caoile earned his GED and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Troy Caoile is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Troy Caoile for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his high school career to his academic career to his future accomplishments.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO REQUIRE THE ACCREDITATION OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce, along with Chairman BARNEY FRANK, legislation that requires the accreditation of English language training programs for student visa holders.

Accreditation of these programs will ensure that foreign students here on temporary visas receive the high level English language education that they deserve and expect. And this legislation will help give the students a positive experience in America.

The bill prevents fraud in the student visa program and raises the quality of English language training programs in the United States. It does so by requiring accreditation, which is achieved only after certain learning criteria are met.

Under section 101(a)(15)(F) of the "Immigration and Nationality Act," a foreign national can get a student visa to study at a U.S. college, high school, or other learning institution, such as an established "language training program . . . approved by the Secretary of Homeland Security after consultation with the Secretary of Education. . . ."

This bill requires that a nonimmigrant foreign student seeking to enter the United

States to study at a language training program must enroll in a program that is recognized as accredited by the Secretary of Education. The Senate passed this legislation by unanimous consent last Congress.

Intensive English Programs ("IEPs") serve to teach English to foreign students. There are about 75,000 such students in the United States. The programs range in length from 2 weeks to 1 year, but average 12 weeks. There are nearly 1,000 IEPs in the U.S., and students must study a minimum of 18 hours per week to meet their visa requirements.

Currently all IEPs must be officially recognized, but that sometimes means there is just a check to see that the building in which the IEP is supposedly located actually exists. The result of such lax monitoring is fraud in the IEP community.

Illegitimate IEPs either do not teach English well or serve as scams for individuals who want to come to the United States through fraudulent means. In April 2008, the Los Angeles Times reported, "The operator of two English language schools was charged Wednesday with running a scheme that allowed foreign nationals, including several Russian prostitutes, to fraudulently obtain student visas to enter and stay in the United States."

And just 2 weeks ago, two individuals who ran an English language school for immigrants in Duluth, GA, were indicted for submitting fraudulent documents to the Department of Homeland Security. They did so in order to get student visas for "dozens, and perhaps hundreds, of 'students.'"

Such fraudulent programs, along with IEPs that do not function well, tarnish the reputation of the entire IEP industry. That's why the American Association of Intensive English Programs supports this legislation. And legitimate IEPs are interested in ensuring the quality of their programs.

Under this bill, IEPs can meet the accreditation requirement in one of two ways. First, they can be under the governance of a university or college that has been accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Or, second, they can be individually accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) or the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

The three typical steps in the accreditation process are (1) the completion of a written self-study that documents how the program or institution meets the standards of the accreditation agency; (2) a site visit by an agency team to verify that standards are being met; and (3) follow-up measures on the part of the school to correct any deficiencies, subject to review and final approval by the accreditation agency.

Currently, many legitimate IEPs are voluntarily becoming accredited on their own.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to cosponsor the bill.

KELSEY COMPTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsey Com-

ton who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kelsey Compton is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsey Compton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsey Compton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE ROCKY FLATS 1969 FIRE

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most fateful days in the history of the State of Colorado, the day the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant outside of Boulder nearly became America's own Chernobyl, some 30 years before that terrible accident in the Ukraine.

On Mother's Day of that year, a fire broke out amid the glove boxes in Building 776, where plutonium spheres were being manufactured for use as cores for some of the most powerful weapons in human history. The fire quickly spread throughout the facility, as many of the fire alarms had been removed to make room for more production. It is estimated that between 0.14 and 0.9 grams of plutonium 239 and 240 were released before a heroic band of perhaps 40 firefighters were able to control and eventually douse the fire. Those firefighters faced the immense decision of whether to battle the blaze with water, which could have set off a chain reaction with the resulting explosion literally contaminating the entire Denver metropolitan area. Luckily for us all, they chose correctly.

Still, plutonium was released into the environment from that accident, through the air vents in the roof of the building and via firefighters exiting it. Thousands of Coloradans were exposed, although how many we'll never know. The firefighters, of course, were exposed most severely, and everyone nearby faced greatly increased risks of serious disease. Indeed, many of those involved have since contracted and died from cancers and other conditions tied to radiation exposure.

I bring up the 1969 accident not only because today, May 11, is its 40th anniversary. I bring it up because the Americans who worked at Rocky Flats and other nuclear facilities around the Nation deserve our thanks, and our support, now that the nuclear arms race is a matter for the history books. They faced enormous risks. They worked with materials that are among the most toxic known to mankind, with half-lives of hundreds of thousands of years, all so that under the prevailing ideology of the time we were able to live our

lives safely. They are American heroes every bit as much as our wartime soldiers. In a sense, they were wartime soldiers: Soldiers of the nuclear cold war, and many gave their lives.

Several weeks ago, I along with my Colorado colleagues, Representatives PERLMUTTER, DEGETTE, SALAZAR, and COFFMAN, and Senators UDALL and BENNET, introduced H.R. 1828, the Charlie Wolf Nuclear Workers Compensation Act. The act would finally cut through the red tape that has prevented America's nuclear workers from gaining the compensation they were promised in exchange for their dangerous service. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to remember the risks and sacrifices made by heroic men and women in our nation's nuclear production facilities, which were located in virtually every State in the country, and to pass this historic piece of legislation.

FRANK CASADOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Frank Casados who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Frank Casados is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Frank Casados is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Frank Casados for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ROSA WALKER

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Rosa Walker, former Director of the Texas AFL-CIO, for her 38 years of visionary leadership. As a stalwart trailblazer in the Texas labor movement and Democratic politics, Rosa's accomplishments and admirers are many. Beyond her personal politics or civic niche, we can all celebrate her lifelong commitment to community involvement and public service.

Born in the Piney Woods in Hemphill, Texas, Rosa earned her high school degree from Pineland High School before she took up a career at Southwestern Bell. She subsequently joined the Communication Workers of America (CWA) where organizing piqued her interest. With CWA she served as a commercial job steward, rose through the ranks, and